



VOL. XXXIV.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 14, 1866.

NO. 27.

## The Maine Farmer

N. T. TRUE,  
S. L. BOARDMAN, Editors.

Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man.

June.

June is the month of months to most people. It is the time when the choicer flowers are in bloom, when the deepest and most delicate shades of green are upon the trees, and when the animal creation, and especially man, goes forth to enjoy life in all its freshness. The piping notes of the birds indicate their happiness. Even the frogs in yonder million-fold after their notes of joy as well as they can. They who should not man enjoy himself at this season of the year? To the farmer it is a month of alternate hope and fear. A few days of cold weather or a frosty night forebodes to him a failure in his crops. A fine rain followed by a warm sun dispels all these forebodings of evil, and he goes into his fields and feels happy that his grass is taller and greener than when he last saw it, that his grain has had a good start, and that his apple tree has blossomed well with the promise of an abundance of fruit. Most farmers usually have a little relaxation between planting and hoeing, which occurs in June in this State. It is the time generally to repair the roads, or to visit friends, or go to market to obtain the supplies for haying.

We love the month of June. We love to look at the beautiful landscape, in all its varying aspects. We always climb at least one mountain in June, and look abroad over the country. It enlarges our view of what this world is. We inhale the mountain air and mountain coolness, and return with a greater love of home and its surroundings than ever. Nobody but a madman can fail to enjoy the month of June.

## Akwosic Emery.

We have received from J. H. Steeper, agent of the Bath Iron Mining and Manufacturing Co., a copy of an analysis of the Akwosic emery. It only confirms what we recently stated of this article, that it is not the true emery, but that its cutting power consists in the minute grains of garnet associated with the iron and other minerals. We had no opportunity at the time to test the article, and supposed then as now that it might be useful in polishing in certain cases, but from Dr. Hayes' analysis, and from the testimony of manufacturing companies that have employed it, it appears to have a degree of hardness sufficient to polish the hardest steel. If this be true, it will prove a valuable article for a thousand purposes for which emery has heretofore been employed. The garnet is quite variable in hardness from different localities, and it is only by actually testing it, that its real value can be ascertained. Garnet has long been used for polishing purposes, and has been sold under the name of red emery.

We have always been a strong advocate for developing the natural resources of our own State, and we are well pleased to learn that one more effort in this direction has been made, which we trust will prove a source of wealth to those engaged in its manufacture. It is for this reason that we cheerfully insert the letter of Dr. Hayes, and shall employ the first opportunity to visit the locality:

COPY OF ANALYSIS OF AKWOSIC EMERY, MADE BY DR. HENRY H. HAYES.

Mrs. N. M. Dow, Sir.—A very careful analysis of your emery has been made here, and I submit the following results:

Although commercially, this mineral may with propriety be called emery, the mass analyzed, indeed the rock which I have seen in place is principally a mixture of quartz, mica, and schistose, these four minerals forming the rock in which a hard iron ore is found. When separated in process of manufacture, garnet with very little quartz remains on the fracture of the rock, and mainly on the fracture of the garnet which always gives cutting edges on angular particles, a harder substance might fracture differently, and be of no value in the arts, as a certain cutting power, such as is found in the naxal, is due to the presence of a hard substance, such as talc, rather than chalcopyrite, and next to topaz, which degrees of hardness covers all the more important articles, such as steel grinding, and finishing, cutting and engraving, glass, and similar articles.

From the practical tests made by respectable firms and skillful workmen, no doubt of the applicability of this material exists, and its use may both extend and cheapen manufacture of metals.

## A. H. D. State, Assayer.

S. DAVIS HAYES, Chemist.

## Utility of Surface Drains.

During a recent ride into the country immediately after the copious rains of May 27th and 28th, we were impressed with the great value of surface drains, and were more strongly convinced of the truth of the views of Mr. Harris as given in our issue of two weeks ago. It is almost a wonder that this master has not been employed to carry off of that superfluous water which has been allowed to evaporate. We have noticed that upon much land where the water stands in considerable quantities after a heavy rain, farmers are obliged to wait a long time for the water to evaporate, and the soil to become in a state of readiness for working, when by a little labor in opening a small drain upon the surface, the water could be carried off in a few hours, and the process of drying greatly hastened. Again, the difficulty which Mr. Harris speaks of, viz: "Liability of washing, and thereby injuring land by the loss of its most valuable portion," can, if the location and direction of the surface drains are studied and well considered, be completely overcome in almost every instance. In a ride of twenty miles we did not see a single instance of water standing in pools upon the surface that could not have been carried off by small open drains, and made to flow over permanent grass, thereby saving essentially in two ways—preparing the plowed land to be worked, and irrigating the grass land with the water and heat part of the soil washed from the field above. We are satisfied great benefits would result from a well considered system of surface drains and are inclined to believe with Mr. Harris, that "millions of dollars are annually lost by the farmers of the United States" for want of care and attention in this respect. We hope to see the subject practically considered and put in use by our farmers in all situations where it can be productive of the benefits above stated.

## Preserving Fruits by Canning.

We are glad the practice of canning fruits is coming into general use, over the old method of making preserves of them. Canning has many advantages, among which are—it is more simple and easily performed, is cheaper and healthier, and many good fruits, such as pie-plant and currants, can be kept in this manner and which make very indifferent preserves. Besides, fruits are far more palatable in their fresh, natural state, as they can be kept by canning, than if compounded with sugar. The process of canning is easily practiced, there is no mystery connected with it, and we would urge upon every household the importance of canning up as great a variety of vegetables and fruits as possible. Begin with rhubarb. Prepare it as if for cooking, boil it and put it into common bottles, put in the corks while they are hot, and can be learned for future guidance.

put on some sealing wax, dip a little cold water upon the wax so as to prevent the air from forcing its way down through the melted wax through some crevices in the cork, and the work is done. Maple syrup can be kept sweet through the summer by simply putting it up in sealed bottles, after first expelling the air as in canning fruits.

## Shearing Festival at Waterville.

It was our good fortune to be present at the sheep-shearing festival of the North Kennebec Wool Growers' Association, which took place at Waterville, on Wednesday of last week; and notwithstanding the somewhat unfavorable condition of the weather, the attendance was good, the whole exercise spirited and interesting, and the results highly satisfactory to all present.

In the morning the town common presented a busy scene, but as the weather threatened rain, it was deemed advisable to repair to a commodious building opposite, which gave ample room for the process of shearing. A committee consisting of F. R. Doubtless of Waterville, Warren Peveril of Vassalboro', S. L. Boardman of Augusta, A. N. Green of Fairfield, and H. Jaquith of Albion, were chosen to conduct the weighing and shearing, who at once proceeded to enter upon their duties. The sheep were weighed before being sheared, and the fleeces carefully weighed afterwards.

We give in the accompanying table, the result of weighing &c.—except in case of one or two animals which were brought in so late an hour that the committees were unable to obtain the necessary particulars of weight, age, &c.

## Best Horse Rakes in use.

MRS. EDITORS.—I wish to inquire through the columns of your valuable paper which is the best wheel hay-rake, and where can it be obtained?

North Haven, May 28, 1866. W. O. W.

Note. All of the wheel horse-rakes in use, so far as we are acquainted, possess serious defects, the chief of which is, they are too long in unloading, thereby making a very loose and imperfect winnow—what can be buncheted up but with difficulty. The old Delano rake has stood the test of years, and has much to recommend it. The Whitcomb rake was introduced into this State quite extensively last year, and gave good satisfaction. The Wallace & Carpenter rake was advertised in the MAINE FARMER last year, but we do not know as was used to any extent among the farmers. The rake made by Nye & Clark, of Barre, Mass.,—which was on exhibition at Concord last year—seemed to us to possess more desirable qualities than any we know of, but its high price will somewhat circumscribe its use. The rapidity with which the teeth are elevated, overcomes one great difficulty in wheel-rakes, and gives it an advantage over most others in use. We presume these rakes can be had from the leading agricultural implement dealers in the State, or through Kendall & Whitney, Portland.

We have always been a strong advocate for developing the natural resources of our own State, and we are well pleased to learn that one more effort in this direction has been made, which we trust will prove a source of wealth to those engaged in its manufacture. It is for this reason that we cheerfully insert the letter of Dr. Hayes, and shall employ the first opportunity to visit the locality:

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## Utility of Surface Drains.

The table presents at a glance, the most interesting points, but we regret the committee could not have more time to examine the fleeces and notice other important matters, such as the condition of the animals, the per cent. of fleece to live weight, relative amount of yolkiness, &c., but we believe it is the intention of the chairman—who made a partial report at the time of the shearing—to make up a report embodying such facts and suggestions brought out by the examination, which we hope to place before our readers at an early day. However, as there were no premiums to be awarded, as all farmers present had an opportunity of examining, and therefore judging for themselves, the fleeces were not to be fitted for the manufacturer, it was thought best to defer these matters, as they were regarded as beyond the province of the committee to pass judgment upon.

The table given herewith, imperfect as it is, will repay a careful studying, and be productive of good results. We should state, by way of explanation, that all the sheep were unwashed, except the Cotswold ewe presented by Mr. Pearson of Vassalboro', whose fleece was thoroughly cleaned. The sheep presented by Mr. Maxham, were both splendid animals, and were less liable to injure the sheep, while it has for more than thirty years, been a standard wooled for success. His is the best, and the most valuable in the trade. Apply it to the nostrils of the sheep with a feather (goose quill) repeating the operation three or four times if necessary.—Eos.

## Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

## Culture of the Honey Bee.—No. 4.

SWARMING.

In the swarming season we require the closest attention; it is the time when we must attend to small details, and make every preparation for the arrival of swarms, by interest and concern upon the welfare of the bees.

There are many in this enlightened age, who deny the existence of a queen, and a still larger number who do not even know that there is one. They find it difficult to conceive how a swarm can be formed without a queen.

Barre, May 11, 1866. G. A. L.

Now. The worm or grub in the head of sheep comes from an egg deposited in the nostrils of the sheep in the months of July and August; a worm which has thrust its head into the fresh earth on the approach of the fly, and others smear their noses with it. In our last year's volume was given the account of a subscriber, a quarter of a teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine poured into each nostril of the sheep, who said he had tried it and found it to be effectual in dislodging the grub in every instance. The remedy may be a successful one, but we had rather, and should recommend whale oil instead, as being less liable to injure the sheep, while it has for more than thirty years, been a standard wooled for the malady. Apply it to the nostrils of the sheep with a feather (goose quill) repeating the operation three or four times if necessary.—Eos.

DAVID BROWN.

For the Maine Farmer.

## A Model Farm.

MANY of the readers of the FAIRFAIR know that the town of Union is one of the best farming towns in the State. The general aspect of the land; the well-tilled houses, and large and convenient farms; all men in farmers in comfortable circumstances. But I wish to call your attention to the fact of forty acres of land, owned by Mr. Albert Thurston, which he bought eighteen years ago, when some thirty acres of it were covered with stumps, logs, bushes, &amp;c., and some six acres were swampy land, and supposed to be useless. He has improved it till, after taking ten years for the removal of stumps, logs, bushes, &amp;c., and the clearing of the land, it is now worth fifty thousand dollars, while a few years ago it was worth only ten thousand. This is a remarkable instance of the labor of the farmer, and the industry with which he has conducted his operations.

Hampshire, May 23, 1866. E. D.

The young men of the neighborhood are anxious to learn the secret of his success, and are desirous of imitating his example.

Hampshire, May 23, 1866. E. D.

GRUB IN THE HEAD.

MISSISSIPPI.—One of our townsmen has lost nine sheep with grubs in the nose. What shall we do for a preventive, and also for a cure?

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For the Maine Farmer.

## Strawberries—Swiss Hens.

THE great trouble to cultivate the strawberry, is the want of a good root.

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Barre, May 1





## Poetry.

ABRAHAM DAVENPORT.

J. G. WETHER.

In the old days, a custom laid aside  
What brooches and coaxed haloed the people sent  
To their wives to make the path clear, when the Bound  
Drinks the small tributary of the Miami,  
And followed by pure lives and tranquil deaths,  
Bounded west up the countrys of the States.

Now we have a new custom, a new law,  
For a May-day of the fair year  
Severed hundred eighty, that there fell  
Over the bloom and sweet life of the Spring,  
A day of blight, a day of death, a day of woe,  
A horror of great darkness, like the night  
of the day of which the Northern star,  
The bright and glorious, shone in the gloomy sky.

Was black with ominous clouds, save where it shone  
With the lightning bolts which struck

The Northern star; the red hot bolt  
Birds ceased to sing, and barn-yard fowls  
Loved, and looked however; bats on southern wings  
Witless abroad; the sounds of labor died,

And all the sharp, the all the sharp,

To hear the down-beat of the trumpet shatter  
The black sky, and the stars of Christ

As though they could not, so he looked

A loving guest at Bethany, but stern

As though he were in the old State House, dim as ghosts,

But the lawyers of Connecticut,

Tremendous, grand, the judges' robes

He who had given them, let us go,

He who was strong, and strong he was,

He who was clear, with his steady rule

The intolerable truth: "The well may be

The well may be, but the world awaits

It is so, so, no, I know, I know,

My present duty, and my love, and

The love of the past, and the love of the past

Where he sat me in his peregrine,

I chose for one to come to him to come

And to bring him from his task,

But ready when the Lord of the harvest calls;

And when the Master comes, say,

Let God do his will, we see to our

Bring in the canons."

Then by the flitting light the Speaker read

An act to amend an act to regulate

The shade and amber lights, Whereupon

Yester evening, August 1st, A.D. 1864,

Seraphim in the question, with no figures of speech,

Such as dry bones, natural to the man;

His two sleek colleagues, listless all the while,

To hear the thunder of the crowd,

And then, in a roar, a roar of half a sea,

Against the background of unnatural dark,

The silent dust of the place of fear.

—Atlantic City.

## Our Story-Teller.

### THE BLUE VEIL.

"Look out for Lizzie in blue veil, by six P. M. train to New York." —FRED.

"A dollar and twenty cents, sir, and sign your name in the book, if you please," said the boy from the telegraph office.

"A dollar and twenty cents!—sign my name in the book, I repeated stupidly;—"but this telegram's not for me!"

"Yes, sir! It is sent to Mr. Charles Chester, at the Lakeville House, Lakeville, N. Y. There is no other Mr. Chester in Lakeville, and you always board here, so it must be you, sir! At least, I think so, for I am not so sure, as they say, that men are born with a hurry. He was delayed in coming to New York, but the fault wasn't at our office."

"I would it be! Lizzie Chester, or was it one of Mrs. Stowell's daughters, daugh'r, there was no time for me to kill in swanning which Lizzie I was to meet. I paid the boy, snapped a patent lock of my valise, and drove hurriedly to the depot, duly to 'look out for Lizzie,' and take the next train. West New York, I found, was a very busy station, and the house was smothering his impatience to be off. Passengers were crowding into the cars, baggage was rattling by, the bell was ringing, and where was Lizzie?"

At length, at the door of the ladies' room, looking over her shoulder, she espied a lady wearing the identical Blue Veil.

"Is this the 'Lizzie who I am to meet?'" I ventured to ask, groaning in spirit at the ignorance in which I had been left regarding any other connection.

"Yes, sir! And this is Mr. Chester, I suppose. You know me by my blue veil, did you not? Fred, said that would be a sufficient signal. You are very kind to take charge of me. I was fearful you would find the care of a lady a great burden on a night journey. If I had known it would be so, I would have just as soon left the trouble from him, so here I am, as you perceive. Are not the cars just about starting?"

"I have time to see to your baggage," I managed to say.

"Oh, thank you, but Fred checked it through, and bought my ticket. It is all right!"

"I was it all wrong, but what aches of two-and-thirty would decline to escort a charming 'Lizzie' in a blue veil, thus mysteriously committed to his protection?"

"We had just a minute and a half in which to secure our seats are the western train was off, and my companion uttered a very contented little murmur of satisfaction as we slowly steamed out of the depot.

"Oh, I was so foolish you would not be here to meet me, and took the trouble from him, so here I am, as you perceive. And are not the cars just about starting?"

"It is a long journey," I replied, with some faint hope that I might tempt her into a moment of her desolation.

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